

MINUTES OF MEETING May 28, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Northampton Retirement Board was called to order by Chairperson Karpinski at 1:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, Municipal Hall, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA.

Members present were Joyce Karpinski, Shirley LaRose and Michael Lyons. Thomas Sullivan was present via remote participation. Susan Wright was absent. Also present was Administrator David Shipka and Administrative Assistant Elsie Vazquez.

At the start of the meeting Ms. Karpinski noted that Mr. Sullivan would be participating via remote participation due to geographic distance.

Visitors

None

New Business

The Board welcomed the newly appointed Executive Director of PERAC, John Parsons, who had requested to briefly speak with the Board.

Mr. Parsons remarked that he planned to reach out to all retirement boards in the Commonwealth as a way of introduction and to share his thoughts on PERAC's role as an oversight agency going forward.

He began by speaking about the need for uniformity among all retirement boards and stressed the value of finding common ground in identifying the central issues that face local systems. He briefly discussed funding challenges facing boards and in mentioning pension crises elsewhere in the U.S. he warned that a crisis could happen here if we do not remain vigilant. He recognized the scope and importance of work performed by administrators and staff and in closing he hoped that board members and administrators would not hesitate to reach out to his office when they had an issue with an action or direction that PERAC had taken.

At the conclusion of his remarks Mr. Parsons answered a few general questions from the Board and the administrator before exiting the room at 1:26 p.m.

Regular Business

The Board accepted the following new members:

Joshua LaPointe (DPW)

Jason LaRose (School)

Jeffrey Guerra (DPW)

Robin Aubrey (Collector/Parking)

The Board reviewed retirement applications for the following members:

Michael Dunn, Jr. (DPW)

Barbara Rakaska (School)

Patricia Russell (School)

Robert Tomaskowicz (Fire)

On a motion made by Mr. Lyons and seconded by Mr. Sullivan, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to accept the aforementioned retirement application(s) (Karpinski: Yes, Lyons: Yes, LaRose: Yes, Sullivan: Yes).

The Board reviewed retirement allowances for the following retirees:

Jerome Yeziarski (Dispatch)

On a motion made by Mr. Lyons and seconded by Ms. LaRose, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to approve the aforementioned retirement allowance(s) (Karpinski: Yes, Lyons: Yes, LaRose: Yes, Sullivan: Yes).

The Board reviewed the following deceased members/retirees/survivors:

Carolyn Gazzillo (Cafeteria)

Mary Bouchard (DPW)

On a motion made by Ms. LaRose and seconded by Mr. Lyons, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 25, 2019 (Karpinski: Yes, Lyons: Yes, LaRose: Yes, Sullivan: Yes).

The Board reviewed and approved the following warrants:

Board and staff payroll warrant totaling \$17,329.37

Pension payroll warrant totaling \$879,730.88

Accounts payable warrant totaling \$82,131.16

The Board reviewed the following reports:

March Trial Balance

Transaction journal from the de Burlo Group, Inc for April 2019

PRIT Statement for April 2019

The Board reviewed the following wire transfers for the current month:

\$650,000 from PRIM to Peoples' United Bank (distribution)

\$23,644.27 from Peoples' United Bank to Florence Bank

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report on the Florence Bank account for April:

Bank statement: \$262,301.47

Outstanding disbursements: \$222,369.82

Adjusted bank balance: \$39,931.65

Outstanding receipts: \$20,587.90

Trial Balance end of month balance: \$60,519.55

The Board reviewed the following makeup/buyback requests:

David Tripp

Request to purchase reserve service from employment as a reserve Deputy Fire Chief with the Southampton Fire Department from September 1981 to March 2006.

On a motion made by Mr. Lyons and seconded by Mr. Sullivan, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to deny the aforementioned request (Karpinski: Yes, Lyons: Yes, LaRose: Yes, Sullivan: Yes). In voting to deny the Board noted the following facts:

1) The service was rendered while Mr. Tripp was a member of the Hampshire County Retirement System.

2) The Hampshire County Retirement Board has not accepted any liability for the service on the transfer to the Northampton Retirement Board.

3) According to our records Mr. Tripp was not appointed as a permanent member of the fire department subsequent to his service as an intermittent or call fire fighter. M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 4(2)(b) states in part: "...service as a permanent-intermittent or call fire fighter shall be credited only if such permanent-intermittent or call fire fighter was later appointed as a permanent member of the fire department."

The administrator will notify Mr. Tripp of the denial and provide him with information on his right to appeal to DALA.

The Board reviewed the following correspondence:

PRIM April Update

Old Business

None

Other Business

Mr. Lyons volunteered to help tally the votes for the election on June 10th at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Lyons, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. as follows: (Karpinski: Yes, Lyons: Yes, LaRose: Yes, Sullivan: Yes).

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2019 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Administrator

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE NORTHAMPTON RETIREMENT BOARD ON 6/27/2019.

APPROVED:

_____ **Joyce Karpinski, Chairperson**

_____ **Shirley LaRose**

_____ **Michael J Lyons**

_____ **Thomas Sullivan**

_____ **ABSENT** _____ **Susan Wright**

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